

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
maintaining a current state of auxiliary information regarding a sequence of video frames, the sequence of video frames being encoded as a video bit stream having video frame data for each respective video frame of the sequence of video frames;
comparing the current state of auxiliary information with auxiliary information regarding a current video frame of the sequence of video frames to determine differential information; and
annotating the differential information to the video bit stream as an annotation to the video frame data for the current video frame.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the current state of auxiliary information indicates the latest encoded information in the bit stream and is maintained in a state storage memory.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the auxiliary information comprises additional non-visual information regarding video frames.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the auxiliary information comprises video processing information regarding video frames.
5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising encoding the differential information before annotating the differential information.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the encoded differential information comprises a list of parameters, the parameters being described in a tag lookup table.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein annotating the differential information comprises extending the video bit stream format to include the differential information.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein annotating comprises annotating only if the differential information indicates a change from the current state of the auxiliary information.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising gathering the video information regarding the current video frame.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the differential information comprises the difference between the current state of the auxiliary information and the gathered information.

11. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

maintaining a current state of auxiliary information regarding a sequence of video frames, the sequence of video frames being encoded as a video bit stream having video frame data for each respective video frame of the sequence of video frames;

comparing the current state of auxiliary information with auxiliary information regarding a current video frame of the sequence of video frames to determine differential information;

annotating the differential information to the video bit stream as an annotation to the video frame data for the current video frame.

12. The medium of Claim 11, wherein the current state of auxiliary information indicates the latest encoded information in the bit stream and is maintained in a state storage memory.

13. The medium of Claim 11, wherein the auxiliary information comprises additional non-visual information regarding video frames.

14. The medium of Claim 11, further comprising encoding the differential information as a list of parameters, the parameters being described in a tag lookup table, before annotating the differential information.

15. The medium of Claim 14, wherein annotating the differential information comprises extending the video bit stream format to include the differential information.

16. An apparatus comprising:

a collector to receive auxiliary information regarding a sequence of video frames and to maintain a current state of the auxiliary information, the sequence of video frames being encoded as a video bit stream having video frame data for each respective video frame of the sequence of video frames;

a comparator to receive the auxiliary information and compare the current state of the auxiliary information with auxiliary information regarding a current video frame of the sequence of video frames to determine differential information; and

an annotator to store the differential information in the video bit stream by extending the original bit stream format.

17. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the auxiliary information comprises additional non-visual information regarding video frames.

18. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the auxiliary information comprises video processing information regarding video frames.

19. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the collector receives the sequence of video frames.

20. The apparatus of Claim 16, further comprising a state storage memory coupled to the collector to store the current state of the auxiliary information.

21. The apparatus of Claim 16, further comprising an encoder to encode the differential information as auxiliary information for the current frame data;

22. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the encoded differential information comprises a list of parameters, the parameters being described in a tag lookup table.

23. An apparatus comprising:

a collector to receive auxiliary information regarding a sequence of video frames and to maintain a current state of the auxiliary information, the sequence of video frames being encoded as a video bit stream having video frame data for each respective video frame of the sequence of video frames;

a state storage memory coupled to the collector to store the current state of the auxiliary information;

a comparator to receive the auxiliary information and compare the stored current state of the auxiliary information with auxiliary information regarding a current video frame of the sequence of video frames to determine differential information; and

a tag lookup table defining settable parameters;

an annotator to store the differential information using the settable parameters in the video bit stream by extending the original bit stream format.

24. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the auxiliary information comprises additional non-visual information regarding camera geometry and identification for the video frames.

25. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the auxiliary information comprises video processing information regarding descriptions and camera positions for the video frames.